

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, KINGSESSING BRANCH  
1201 South 51st Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6755  
*PA-6755*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, KINGSESSING BRANCH

HABS NO. PA-6755

Location: 1201 South 51<sup>st</sup> Street, between Chester and Kingessing Streets, in the Kingessing neighborhood of (West) Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The Library is located within a city-owned park with playing fields and a recreational center to the rear. It faces west onto 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

Owner: The library is part of the Free Library of Philadelphia system and is owned by the City of Philadelphia.

Present Use: Branch library

Significance: Completed in 1919, the Kingessing Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia was among the last of twenty-five branch libraries built through an endowment from industrialist-turned-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The impact of Carnegie's grant program on the development of public libraries cannot be overstated. He came of age in an era when libraries were rare, privately funded institutions and access was through subscription. Believing in the power of libraries to create an egalitarian society that favored hard work over social privilege by allowing equal access to knowledge, between 1886 and 1917 he provided forty million dollars for the construction of 1,679 libraries throughout the nation. The vast resources that he allotted to library research and construction contributed significantly to the development of the American Library as a building type. In addition, by insisting that municipalities supply a building site, books, and annual maintenance funds before bestowing grants Carnegie elevated libraries from the arena of private philanthropy to that of civic responsibility.

Philadelphia was the recipient of one of the largest Carnegie grants for library construction. Although the city was among the first to establish a free library system, it had no purpose-built structures prior to the Carnegie endowment. The branch libraries were built between 1905 and 1930, under the direction of the city appointed Carnegie Fund Committee, and designed by a "who's-who" of Philadelphia's architects. The twenty extant branch libraries remain as a remarkable intact and cohesive grouping, rivaled only by that of New York City, with fifty-seven.<sup>1</sup> Kingessing Branch was designed by Philip H. Johnson, an architect for the city. This was the first of three branch libraries that he designed; the other two are the Greenwich (no longer extant) and Wyoming branches. The

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<sup>1</sup> Carnegie provided funding beginning in 1903 for thirty branch libraries, but with rising construction costs, only twenty-five could be built, the last few of which were subsidized by the city. Of Philadelphia's twenty-five libraries, four are no longer extant and a fifth (Frankford) has been altered beyond recognition. Four others are no longer used as library buildings. In New York, fifty-seven were still standing in 1996. The next single largest grants for branch libraries were given to Cleveland (15), Baltimore (14), and Cincinnati (10).

Kingsessing Branch is typical of Philadelphia's Carnegie-funded branch libraries, following the almost formulaic pattern of brick construction, understated Beaux Arts styling, and T-plan configuration that came to define Carnegie Libraries in Philadelphia and nationwide. The library derives its name from the Native American word "Chincessing" meaning "bog meadow," that was given to this area along the Schuylkill River by Dutch and Swedish settlers.

Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Kingsessing Branch was erected between 1918 and 1919.<sup>2</sup> The site was selected in December 1916, by which time the architect had already been appointed. However, it was not until October 1917 that the architect submitted sketches for consideration. By June 1918 bids for construction were opened and a contractor was chosen. The library opened to the public on 29 November 1919.<sup>3</sup>

2. Architect: The Kingsessing Branch was designed by Philip H. Johnson (1868-1933). Johnson served for thirty years as the architect for the city's Department of Public Health. He was appointed to the department in 1903, after having worked for the city's Bureau of Engineering & Surveys. Johnson designed a number of Pennsylvania hospitals such as Philadelphia General Hospital, The Philadelphia Hospital for Contagious Diseases, The Pennsylvania Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane (in Hanover), the Home for Feeble-minded & Epileptics (in Spring City), The Hospital for the Insane (in Norristown), and the Philadelphia Hospital for Tubercular & Insane at Byberry Farms. Johnson also designed numerous hospital additions as well as ancillary hospital structures such as administrative and laboratory buildings, nurses housing, pump and engine houses, pavilions for consumptives, and even farm buildings on those sites that included such therapeutic amenities. Johnson designed other public health facilities in Philadelphia including bath houses, infirmaries, and facilities for the indigent. He was also known for designing the City Hall Annex and the Philadelphia Convention Hall. Other civic designs include those for city fire houses and police stations, armories, and correctional facilities, along with those directed at public health. Johnson's repertoire also encompassed recreation centers and playgrounds. It was likely in the context of the latter that he was selected to design three of the remaining five branch libraries to be built within the city of Philadelphia.<sup>4</sup> By selecting an architect already on the payroll, the city may also have

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<sup>2</sup> 1918 is the date given on the cornerstone—located to the north end of the front façade, at the water table—and the dedication plaque in entry vestibule.

<sup>3</sup> Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 16 January 1920.

<sup>4</sup> Roger Moss and Sandra Tatman, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects, 1700-1930*, 418-421. It is noted that Johnson received a contract with the City Health Department that was valid for his lifetime, thanks to the influence of his brother-in-law, Israel W. Durham who was political boss of the 7<sup>th</sup> ward.

saved on out-of-pocket design fees at a time when funds for library construction were dwindling.

3. Owners: The library is part of the Free Library of Philadelphia system and is owned by the City of Philadelphia. The land for the library was provided by the Board of Recreation for the City of Philadelphia as part of the Kingessing Recreational Park and Playground.<sup>5</sup> Most of the early library sites were donated by private citizens or local organizations. The City of Philadelphia was later called upon to provide sites in order to complete their building program and round-out the distribution of libraries throughout the city. These sites were often set aside from existing city parks and recreation facilities, thus taking advantage of existing land while taking advantage of the preexisting use of the site by local school children. This lot was made available in January 1917.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The general contractor for the Kingessing Branch was Frank G. Stewart with a low bid of \$81,946. Charles E. Monday & Company was awarded the heating contract at a cost of \$12,385, and Baird & Osterhout Company, the electrical contract at \$2,693.

5. Original plans and construction: The original drawings have not been located, however based on photographs taken upon completion of the library by William H. Rau, it can be determined that the library remains largely as it was when completed.<sup>6</sup> Rau's exterior photograph is a slightly angled view of the front façade. The only noticeable difference between the structure as it appears in his view and the current structure is the addition of a doorway to the southern side of the front entry, positioned at street level (as opposed to the elevation of the main entry) and providing access to the basement.

As depicted in Rau's 1919 interior view, the library consisted of a large main reading room divided into sections by the central circulation desk and by low shelving that ran lengthwise, to either side of the desk. Built-in shelving also lines the walls on all sides, then as now. The shelving and other moldings were of dark, unpainted wood. The cornice and ceiling appear to be of plaster and provide framing for the centrally located skylight. From the center framing member of the skylight, and to either side flanking it, were hung large multi-globed brass chandeliers. Lighting fixtures also included sconces mounted atop the shelving. The area to the north side of the main reading room is indicated as the "Reference" section. Between the circulation desk and the low shelving that demarcates the reference section were located two round tables with sets of four Windsor-style chairs. A large cased opening allows for access to the rear section. In Rau's photograph a group of children stand posed for the camera, suggesting that the rear ell served as the children's section. As depicted, the furniture also consisted of rectangular tables with Mission style chairs.

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<sup>5</sup> Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 5 January 1917.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., *Annual Report of the Library Board, 1907*, William H. Rau, photographs.

6. Alterations and additions: As already noted, a doorway was added to the front façade. Because the building sits on a raised basement, this street level entry appears at mid-height on the wall, thus providing entry to the basement level. The library was renovated in 1999, and probably in the late 1950s as well, as part of a larger campaign to modernize the branch libraries. The systems have been upgraded to include modern restroom facilities and new heating and electrical systems. The renovation included the removal of the original lighting which has been replaced by half-dome chandeliers. The Colonial Revival style furnishings have also been replaced with contemporary ones, and the interior woodwork has been painted. A small, square brick addition has been made at the crux of the main block and rear ell to accommodate an elevator.

## B. Historical Context:

### **The Carnegie Funded Free Library of Philadelphia Building Campaign**

On 3 January 1903, Carnegie's secretary James Bertram responded to the Free Library of Philadelphia's request for a grant to finance the construction of libraries with the promise of \$1.5 million for a planned thirty branch libraries. Despite the fact that Philadelphia figures quite prominently on the timeline of American Library history, it had no purpose-built public libraries prior to the Carnegie endowment. Philadelphia *did* have the nation's first private subscription library, known as the Library Company, founded in 1731. Numerous other private libraries were created as well, such as the Mercantile Library, Ridgeway Library, and the library at the University of Pennsylvania. And it was in Philadelphia that the American Library Association was formed in 1876. The establishment of the Free Library in 1891 placed Philadelphia among the first American cities to institute a non-subscription public library system for the benefit of all of Philadelphia's citizens. As Library Board president J.G. Rosengarten stated in 1903, "Proprietary libraries have grown into valuable adjuncts to our other education institutions. None of them, however, serves the public as does the Free Library, providing good reading for our school children, for our industrious adult population, and for the city's useful employees, firemen, and telegraph operators."<sup>7</sup> As Rosengarten's comment indicates, the library system was an important component of the city's public education.

However, prior to the Carnegie funding, the city's fourteen branch libraries, each started by interested local communities, were dependent upon old mansions, storefronts, or back rooms of commercial buildings and civic institutions for library space. As Rosengarten points out, "The [Carnegie] gift gave welcome relief from the expense of the rented rooms occupied by the branches, and from much of the risk to which the collections were subjected in these temporary quarters."<sup>8</sup> Likewise, prior to the completion of its permanent home in 1927, the Central Branch of the Free Library was housed within three different preexisting buildings, including City Hall, an abandoned concert hall on Chestnut Street, and a building on the northeast corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust streets. Carnegie's \$1.5 million grant would change all that. Beginning in 1905, the endowment was put to work, paying for the design and construction of twenty-five branch libraries throughout the city (three of which are no longer extant). They were built between 1905

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<sup>7</sup> Theodore Wesley Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* (New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1917), 85.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

and 1930, with the bulk of them constructed by 1917, and designed by a wide range of Philadelphia architects.

Philadelphia was just one of many cities to receive a library grant. Andrew Carnegie provided forty million dollars for the construction of over 1,600 libraries throughout the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (and about 400 more abroad). Carnegie was motivated by both his own immigrant experience and by his social/political beliefs. Despite his poor, working-class upbringing, he made a fortune through the production of steel. Believing that the wealthy were obligated to give back to society, Carnegie set out to spend during his lifetime the entire 400 million dollars that he received through the sale of Carnegie Steel Company. Carnegie also believed that given a good work ethic and the proper tools, anyone could be successful. He was self-taught and credited his success to the access he received to one gentleman's private library. Carnegie came to believe in the power of libraries to create an egalitarian society that favored hard work over social privilege. Hence libraries, as a key to learning and socialization, became a focus of his charitable donations.

While Carnegie's motivations were in large part paternalistic, the impact of his library campaign is far greater than merely providing the working class with access to books. The vast resources that he applied to this area lead to great advances in library science as well as to the development of the American Library as a building type. Carnegie applied the corporate business models that had made him successful as an industrialist to the development and production of libraries. He insured that local municipalities had a stake in their libraries by insisting that they supply the building site and the books, as well as ten percent of the total construction cost annually for maintenance. By so doing, Carnegie took libraries from the arena of private philanthropy to that of civic responsibility. Any town that was willing to meet those terms was basically able to receive grant funding. The process began via a letter of application submitted to Andrew Carnegie's personal secretary and the individual charged with management of the library grants, James Bertram. In 1903, the city of Philadelphia did just that.

Unlike its rival New York City, Philadelphia's planning group, the Carnegie Fund Committee, placed librarians and not architects at the forefront of the planning process. This is likely the primary reason for the relative standardization of Philadelphia's branch libraries, particularly with regard to layout. This important decision on the part of the Library Board was in keeping with the sentiments endorsed by the Carnegie Corporation. James Bertram was generally distrustful of architects as library planners, believing that they tended to make libraries too expensive by adding unusable space and superfluous detail merely for affect. He preferred the advice of librarians who better understood how libraries needed to function. Both the Philadelphia Library Board and Carnegie Fund Committee included well-placed librarians, the former being Pennsylvania state librarian and American Library Association representative Thomas L. Montgomery, and the latter, the Free Library's John Thomson. President of the Board of Education Henry R. Edmunds was also on the Committee, an indication of the significance of the libraries to public education in Philadelphia. Prominent local businessmen and attorneys filled the other positions. As the Committee minutes indicate, the Librarian and Assistant Librarian were left to work out the details with the architects, and generally had the last

say when it came to finalizing the plans.<sup>9</sup> (For more information about the Carnegie Library construction program and the Free Library of Philadelphia's own library building campaign see, Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Branch, HABS No. PA-6749, Historical Context section.)

### **The Kingessing Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia**

On 14 December 1916 at a meeting of the *Committee for the Selection of Sites for Branches* the suggestion was first made that a portion of the Kingessing Recreational Park and Playground be set aside for a branch library. Other branch sites were similarly selected as the city attempted to take advantage of property they already owned and that which could also facilitate use by local children and the community at large. Furthermore, the use of such sites was a means by which to round-out the distribution of libraries throughout the city. With the approval of the Mayor, the proposal moved forward.<sup>10</sup> Within a few days it was recommended that city architect Philip H. Johnson be assigned the task of designing the new branch library. The amount of \$60,000 had been earmarked for the library's construction, but as with the previous Logan Branch, the prices for labor and building materials had skyrocketed due to shortages resulting from America's entry into World War I. At a total estimated cost of \$97,024, not including architect's fees, this was by far the highest cost of any of the branch libraries to date, exceeding the average cost by about \$42,000. According to the minutes of the Carnegie Fund Committee it was "Resolved to make application to Carnegie Corporation for \$50,000 out of which to erect the Kingessing Branch building, it being understood that this amount is in addition to the sum of sixty thousand dollars authorized by the Board of Trustees on March 6, 1917."<sup>11</sup>

By September 1917, Philip H. Johnson offered for approval by the Committee sketches for the design of the library. Further action, however, was delayed for nearly a year. As had occurred with the Logan Branch, which was the latest of the branch libraries to open, delays resulted from inflationary costs. Finally in June 1918 a construction contract was awarded to general contractor Frank G. Stewart.<sup>12</sup> Little else about the construction of the Kingessing Branch was recorded in the minutes of the Carnegie Fund Committee. In April of 1919 it was reported that a draw upon the funds had been requested to pay the contractors, an indication that a significant level of completion had been achieved. The October minutes record Johnson's willingness to oversee the installation of the heating and lighting contracts, again an indication that completion was near.<sup>13</sup> The opening of the Kingessing Branch finally occurred on Saturday, 29 November 1919 at 3:30pm.

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<sup>9</sup> Free Library of Philadelphia, Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1 July 1904. "On motion resolved, that the matter of procuring plans and securing bids be referred to the Carnegie Fund Committee with power." And also, Carnegie Fund Committee Minutes, 17 May 1912. An entry from this meeting (one of many) illustrates that practices: "Mr. Richards [architect] be instructed to prepare plans for the proposed new Paschalville Branch and that the President be authorized to approve plans for such Branch when same were agreed upon by himself, the Librarian, Asst. Librarian and the architect."

<sup>10</sup> Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 5 January 1917, p. 70-71.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 28 June 1918, 90.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> This occurred in lieu of the departure of the individual designated to handle that task, and the added incentive of a fee to the architect of 2% of the cost.

From a historical standpoint, Kingessing is significant as the location of the first village settlements of the Swedes and the Dutch, which occurred as early as 1667, making it the oldest settled portion of the County of Philadelphia. It is located along the west bank of the lower Schuylkill River in the extreme southwestern portion of the city. The Darby Road forms the main thoroughfare through the area. The name Kingessing comes from the Native American name "Chinsessing," meaning "a place where there is a meadow" or "meadow bog." The township of Kingessing was created at a very early date following the settlement by Pennsylvania's colonial proprietor William Penn. For over seventy-five years, during the late nineteenth and first decade of the twentieth century, this site was occupied by the playing fields for the Belmont Cricket Club. The Kingessing Playground and Recreation Park replaced it in 1910 and still stands to the rear of the library building.

According to a demographic report written in 1956, the area began in the seventeenth century as a small Swedish village of about five two-story wood (probably log constructed) houses. During the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century more substantial brick and stone houses of three stories were erected, many of which were converted to apartments by the twentieth century. The late nineteenth century row houses and early twentieth century apartment building in the area today support a lower to moderate income population. Again, the 1950s population was predominately Irish Catholic and there were two Catholic churches and two parochial schools in the neighborhood, in addition to three Presbyterian, two Lutheran, and one Baptist church in the broader area. The area to the south was populated largely by African Americans. Reports such the one reference above were an important part of the library program, and one suggested by the Carnegie Corporation as a means for ensuring that the books and other materials offered by the library properly served needs and interests of the community. As with the other branch libraries of the Free Library system, Kingessing was modernized during in 1959. In addition to systems up-grades, the interior was painted, including much of the woodwork, and modern furniture replaced the original. The building was rehabilitated again in 1996. The current head librarian is David Utz.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Kingessing Branch Library was designed in the Beaux Arts style of architecture. Noteworthy details characteristic of the style found at Kingessing include the tripartite windows with stone jack arches and patterned brick spandrels, the heavy stone frieze and parapet roofline, and the classically inspired pavilion front with quoining and Doric columns. The library is a single story in height and rests on a raised basement. The main block is seven bays across by three bays deep, with a three-bay-by-three bay rear wing to form an overall T-shaped configuration. There is an entry pavilion to the center of the west front façade with an understated frontispiece featuring Ionic columns. The typical window is set to accommodate the book stacks that line the interior walls.

2. Condition of fabric: The library appears to be well maintained and in good condition.



## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building forms a T-shaped configuration. The main block is seven bays across by three bays deep, and the rear ell is three-bays-by-three-bays in size.
2. Foundations: The foundations are of stone construction.
3. Walls: The walls are of Flemish-bond brick, including decorative brick spandrels referred to in the Committee minutes as “tapestry brick.” There is a water table and quioning of cut stone. The foundation walls are of granite.
4. Structural systems, framing: The structural system is of load-bearing masonry.
5. Porches, stoops: The front entry is enhanced with a stone stoop flanked by ashlar stone walls, and just a few steps up from the sidewalk into the entry vestibule that protrudes slightly from the building.
6. Chimneys: A brick stack is located at the crux of the main block with the rear ell section, on the southern side.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The principal entry is to the center of the west façade and consists of double glass-light doors with transom lights above. The entry is set in an understated frontispiece featuring Ionic columns with an egg-and-dart pattern in the column capital, a pattern that is repeated in the adjoining frieze. The door surround consists of a coved molding with a garland draped in the upper portion. Immediately above the door “KINGSESSING BRANCH” is incised in the stone. The columns supported a dentiled entablature in which is inscribed “FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA.” The larger entry pavilion that encases the frontispiece is flanked by brick sections with stone quioning to either side. There are two secondary doorways to the south side of the front façade, one at the street level and the other set in a well (both entering into the basement level).
  - b. Windows and shutters: The typical window is a tripartite arrangement with a large three light section to the center flanked by one-over-one-light sashes. There are jack-arch lintels with a bracket forming a keystone, cut stone window surrounds, and a stone sill. Beneath each window is a brick spandrel formed by bricks laid lengthwise, with brick cornerstones. The basement windows have been in-filled, with the exception of those that light the meeting room towards the front of the building.
8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The building has a flat roof that can be accessed via a shaft with a metal ladder that rises from the basement.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a stone frieze that runs around the building on all sides.

### C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The library is entered through a vestibule that includes terra cotta tile flooring and marble wainscoting. Above the wainscoting and flanking the doorways are located dedication plaques; one credits Andrew Carnegie with the building, and the other credits the City of Philadelphia with the land. The interior consists of an open space bisected by the circulation desk and by low shelving with a large cased opening into the rear wing. The walls of both sections are lined with shelves. The shelves rest on a high plinth that contains the heating ducts and heat registers, with registers also located between the shelves and the windows above. There is a simple cornice and a corresponding molding that outlines the ceiling. A skylight is positioned to the center of the ceiling in the main reading room, and is now closed over from the exterior so that light is unable to filter through. A section to the end of the main block has been partitioned off to create a work room for staff. Free-standing librarians' desks appear in various locations. The children's section is located to the north side of the main reading room and the adult section is to the south end; and non-fiction books and computers are located in the rear ell.

At the basement level, a wide hallway at the bottom of the stairway opens to the librarians' lounge and kitchen, work rooms, and rest rooms to the east. There is a large meeting room on the west side that can be accessed from both the main hallway and the new doorway located to the front of the library. Two sets of double French doors (with textured glass) open onto the hall from the meeting room, which allows some natural (and artificial) light from the windows in the meeting room to filter through. The ceiling of the open-space meeting room is supported by iron columns. To the south side of the meeting room is the boiler room. There is a closet that contains a ladder for access to the roof.

2. Stairways: The entry to the stair is located to the north side of the rear section at the crux of the main block. There is a two-run stair with an outside entry located at the landing that allows for entry into the basement meeting room without having to pass through the library's reading rooms. The top portion of the stairway is open and has a plain balustrade.

3. Flooring: The wood flooring is now covered with industrial grade carpet on the first floor and with linoleum tile in the basement.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of plaster. There is a heavy coved cornice molding with a simpler molding that outlines the ceiling.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The doorways have a simple entablature and narrow casing.

b. Windows: The windows are recessed within plain reveals.

6. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: The heat ducts and heat registers are located within the high plinth upon which the book stacks rest; registers are also located between the shelves and the windows.

b. Lighting: Half-dome chandeliers now hang from the ceiling.

c. Plumbing: The library includes restroom and kitchen facilities in the basement.

D. Site: The Rau photograph of the library taken upon completion shows a number of young trees along the sidewalk including two flanking the entry. Those trees have been replaced with others; the current trees are smaller, and the area around the library remains largely open. The Library today is located in a mostly residential area surrounded by open green space. It sits on 51<sup>st</sup> Street at the top of Chester Avenue. The library is just a few blocks north of Woodland Avenue, a main thoroughfare through West Philadelphia. To the rear of the library are playing fields and a recreational center.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

Free Library of Philadelphia, *Annual Report of the Library Board, 1907*, William H. Rau, photographs.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary sources: The records of the Free Library of Philadelphia are located at the Central Library on Vine Street. The *Annual Reports* are located in the Municipal Reference Division, Cities P53-1154; and the Carnegie Fund Committee Minute Books are located in the Director's Vault (access by special permission).

Free Library of Philadelphia, *Annual Report of the Library Board, 1917-1920*.

Ibid. Carnegie Fund Committee, *Minutes, 1918-1920*.

Ibid., Trustees Reports, 1917-1920.

2. Secondary sources:

Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

“Celebrate 100 Years of Making a Difference,” available at the Holmes Branch Library. Free Library of Philadelphia, *Annual Report of the Library Board, 1907*, William H. Rau, photographs.

Dierickx, Mary B. *The Architecture of Literacy; The Carnegie Libraries of New York City*. New York City: The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science & NYC Department of General Services, September 1996.

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Moss, Roger and Sandra Tatman, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects*, p.135-137.

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#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of the Kingsessing Branch Library was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Documentation Programs of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief during summer 2007 as part of a larger initiative to record the Carnegie Funded branch libraries of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The project is sponsored by HABS in cooperation with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, John A. Gallery, director; and the Free Library of Philadelphia, William J. Fleming, Administrative Services Director, and made possible through a Congressional appropriation for recording in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The historical reports were prepared by Lisa P. Davidson and Catherine C. Lavoie. Large-format photography was undertaken for HABS by Joseph Elliott. Measured drawings were prepared of the Thomas Holme Branch as the typical branch library during the summer 2008. The drawings team was led by Robert Arzola, working with Jason McNatt, Paul Davidson, and Ann Kidd, architectural technicians.